

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 06251 181137Z

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FOR A/BF/OAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AGAO, APER

SUBJ: FAO FOLLOW-UP REVIEW: "HOLIDAY ADMINISTRATION"

REF: A-5766, 11/30/76

1. ATTACHMENT TO REFAIRGRAM SHOWS AS NUMBER OF HOLIDAYS OBSERVED IN 1973 AS 19 FOR AMERICAN AND FOREIGN PERSONNEL OF STATE, USIA, TREASURY, AGRICULTURE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE AND ROME SEGMENT OF AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION; 10 FOR AMERICAN AND FOREIGN PERSONNEL OF NATO DEFENSE COLLEGE; 9 FOR AMERICAN PERSONNEL AND 17-1/2 FOR FOREIGN PERSONNEL OF ABMC SEGMENT IN FLORENCE AND U.S. ARMY MATERIAL MANAGEMENT AGENCY; 19 FOR AMERICAN PERSONNEL AND 17-1/2 FOR FOREIGN PERSONNEL OF U.S. AIR FORCE AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND.

2. HOLIDAY SCHEDULE FOR STATE, USIA, TREASURY, AGRICULTURE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE AND ABMC/ROME HAS CONTAINED, AT LEAST SINCE 1966, TEN ITALIAN HOLIDAYS (NINE COMMONLY OBSERVED BY EMBASSY AND SEVEN CONSTITUENT POSTS PLUS ONE FOR PATRON SAINT OF LOCALITY) IN ADDITION TO TWO JOINT AMERICAN-ITALIAN HOLIDAYS (CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S DAY) PLUS U.S. FEDERAL HOLIDAYS (INCREASED FROM EIGHT TO NINE IN 1971). ALTHOUGH U.S. HOLIDAYS FALLING ON SATURDAY OR SUNDAY ARE OBSERVED ON FRIDAY OR MONDAY RESPECTIVELY, UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 ROME 06251 181137Z

THAT PRACTICE IS NOT FOLLOWED IN CASE OF ITALIAN HOLIDAYS. NUMBER OF NON-SATURDAY AND NON-SUNDAY ITALIAN HOLIDAYS ACTUALLY OBSERVED BY CLOSING OF DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR ESTABLISHMENTS ON NINE COMMON HOLIDAYS HAS THEREFORE VARIED FROM EIGHT TO FIVE IN YEARS SINCE 1966.

3. THE NINE COMMON ITALIAN HOLIDAYS, APART FROM CHRISTMAS

AND NEW YEAR'S, WERE THOSE HAVING GREATEST SIGNIFICANCE VIS-A-VIS LOCAL SENSITIVITIES. THE FULL CALENDAR OF LEGAL HOLIDAYS OBSERVED BY ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS CONTAINED FIVE ADDITIONAL (TOTAL 16) COUNTRY-WIDE HOLIDAYS, AND IN ADDITION EACH LOCALITY OBSERVED THE FEAST OF ITS PATRON SAINT.

4. IN 1976 NATO DEFENSE COLLEGE OBSERVED THE ELEVEN ITALIAN LEGAL HOLIDAYS WHICH DID NOT FALL ON SATURDAY OR SUNDAY, PLUS GOOD FRIDAY, WHICH IS NOT A LEGAL HOLIDAY.

5. THE ABMC CEMTERY AT FLORENCE IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR, AND IN ORDER TO ENSURE THE PRESENCE OF PERSONNEL TO RECEIVE AND GUIDE VISITORS, IN 1976 AMERICAN PERSONNEL OBSERVED ONLY THE NINE AMERICAN HOLIDAYS AND ITALIAN PERSONNEL OBSERVED ONLY THE 16 ITALIAN LEGAL HOLIDAYS PLUS PATRON SAINT'S DAY PLUS ONE DAY TO COMMEMORATE THE CEMETHEREY'S OUTSTANDING RATING ON ITS ANNUAL GENERAL INSPECTION.

6. IN 1976 THERE WERE NO AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND PERSONNEL IN ITALY. USAMMA IS NO LONGER A SEPARATE COMPONENT, SUPERVISION OF ITS EUROPEAN ACTIVITIES HAVING BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE U.S., AND THE FEW RESIDUEAL EMPLOYEES (4 AMERICAN AND 2 ITALIAN) ARE UNDER THE JURISDICTON OF HEADQUARTERS, EIGHTH SUPPORT GROUP. IN 1976 THE AMERICAN EMPLOYEES OBSERVED ONLY THE NINE AMERICAN HOLIDAYS AND THE ITALIAN EMPLOYEES OBSERVED THE 16 ITALIAN LEGAL HOLIDAYS AND THE PATRON SAINT'S DAY.

7. COPIES OF HOLIDAY SCHEDULES FOR 1976 ARE BEING POUCHED TO UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 ROME 06251 181137Z

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